

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing fiber-reinforced resin for use in molding machines comprising:

threading at least one continuous fiber strand through a chamber;

intermittently introducing into the chamber thermoplastic resin in a molten state, and thereby coating the fiber strand with thermoplastic resin; and

pushing the resin coated continuous fiber strand in a heated state into a barrel housing a rotatable screw simultaneously with the introduction of thermoplastic resin into the chamber and independently of the action of the screw.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein:

the screw is the feed screw of an injection-molding machine.

3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the molding machine is an ~~inject~~ a compression molding machine.

4. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein:

the fibers are cut by the feed screw inside of said barrel.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein:

said barrel and screw comprise a compounding extruder in which the fiber and resin are thoroughly mixed into a molten mass.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5 and further including:

forming the extrudate mass from the compounding extruder into a compressible shape and thereafter conveying the shaped mass to a molding machine adjacent to the compounding extruder.

7. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein said molding machine is a compression-molding machine.

8. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein said molding machine is a transfer-molding machine.

9. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the screw is the feed screw of a profile-extruding machine.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein:

the fiber strand is cut into predetermined lengths after being coated and prior to being directed into a barrel housing a rotatable screw.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing fiber-reinforced resin for use in molding machines comprising:

passing a continuous fiber strand through a chamber;

intermittently introducing into the chamber a thermoplastic resin in a molten state, and thereby coating the continuous fiber strand with thermoplastic resin; and

pushing the resin coated fiber strand in a heated state into a fluidic conveying mechanism in conjunction with the introduction of thermoplastic resin into the chamber and independently of the action of the fluidic conveying mechanism.

12. (Original) The process of claim 11 wherein the fiber strand is cut into predetermined lengths after being coated and prior to being directed into the fluidic conveying mechanism.

13. (New) A process for preparing fiber-reinforced resin for use in molding machines comprising:

threading at least one fiber strand through a chamber;

intermittently introducing into the chamber thermoplastic resin in a molten state,

and thereby coating the fiber strand with thermoplastic resin;

pushing the resin coated fiber strand in a heated state into a barrel housing a rotatable screw simultaneously with the introduction of thermoplastic resin into the chamber and independently of the action of the screw; and

wherein the fiber strand is cut into predetermined lengths after being coated and prior to being directed into a barrel housing a rotatable screw.

14. (New) A process for preparing fiber-reinforced resin for use in molding machines comprising:

passing a fiber strand through a chamber;

intermittently introducing into the chamber a thermoplastic resin in a molten state, and thereby coating the fiber strand with thermoplastic resin;

pushing the resin coated fiber strand in a heated state into a fluidic conveying mechanism in conjunction with the introduction of thermoplastic resin into the chamber and independently of the action of the fluidic conveying mechanism; and

wherein the fiber strand is cut into predetermined lengths after being coated and prior to being directed into the fluidic conveying mechanism.